

The Evening World

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NO CAMPAIGN CONGRESS.

THE Sixty-seventh Congress meets to-day in special session.

It meets at a time when the country is in urgent need of first aid from the executive and legislative branches of its Government.

The honor of the United States, the position of the United States, the prosperity of the United States are vitally involved in questions still unsettled, in legislative tasks not yet performed.

The votes that elected a Republican President and a Republican Congress last fall were not cast for national dishonor or national stagnation.

Even those voters who, in their desire for a change, let themselves be persuaded that Woodrow Wilson's policies were ruining the country are not heard to-day maintaining that the business and trade of the United States can thrive on a mere negation of Wilsonism.

The moment has come when President Harding and his Republican Congress must begin to make good.

Denunciation and destruction of the Wilson programme may have seemed enough while Mr. Wilson was still President. But even perverted Republicans are not going to be so easily satisfied now when, no longer absorbed in gnashing their teeth at Mr. Wilson, they look about and ask what will happen if Republican promises hang indefinitely in the air.

Congress is still a representative body, supposed to function primarily for the benefit of the country rather than for the past, present or future of any political party.

The country at this moment is in sore need of two things:

(1) A foreign policy that will get it out of the intolerably false position into which it was forced by the cantankerousness of a partisan Senate and the antagonisms of a Presidential campaign.

(2) Domestic legislation to meet pressing reconstruction needs—beginning with revision of the Federal tax laws.

Responsibility in the matter of foreign relations falls in large measure on the President and his Secretary of State.

But the Senate is also involved. And while the Senate may seek to save its dignity, it can obstruct ratification of the Versailles Treaty now with no such support as it received from various quarters when the covenant issue was looked upon as a lever with which to dislodge Mr. Wilson and his Administration from power.

There are few Americans of any party who are not now in their hearts impatient to see the foreign policy of the United States in line with the building up of its trade and—what its trade depends upon—the economic fabric of Europe.

Saving the faces of bitter-enders in the Senate is not at the present time of great concern to any considerable number of American voters.

The campaign and the election are five months back.

On the domestic side, there are few Americans who would not insist upon the duty of Congress to get straight down to the practical business of national economy and tax revision.

Republican leaders in Washington have been flying the tariff flag at the masthead in the hope of pleasing interests to which the Republican Party has traditionally paid court.

This time, however, the Republican leaders are astray. What a majority of American business men want first and most is not tariff boosting, but tax reduction. Even from sections where protection has been in high favor, The World's direct questions to business men have elicited answers showing that business puts the need of a downward revision of taxes first.

The Congress that meets to-day should be under no illusion as to the nature of its job.

No impending election or outgoing Administration obscures what the people of the United States ask for in the way of straightforward dealing with problems that are the whole Nation's problems.

If the Republican programme for the session that begins to-day is something different, the Republican Party is in for a heavy reckoning with millions of those who turned the country over to it last November.

This is no campaign Congress.

A STRONG PRECEDENT.

CONVICTION of John S. Williams in the Georgia peonage murder case is one of the big events of the year.

It marks a milestone for both the white and the negro races. A white jury accepted the testimony of a negro witness and punished a white man on the strength of that evidence.

The white South approves, as is clearly shown both by the calm during the trial and by the prevailing tone of editorial opinion.

But is the South willing to learn all the lesson which the Williams case teaches?

Is the South willing to make peonage impossible in the future by abolishing the severe jail punishments for petty offenses which make the "buying out" process possible?

And, finally, is the South going to vindicate law and justice by swift and sure punishment of lawless lynching which has blackened the record of the South?

Georgia justice has vindicated itself. The whites of the South punished an offender against the unwritten law of noblesse oblige in the treatment of negroes. No Federal intervention was required.

Will Georgia and the other Southern States take similar action in the case of lynchings or will they temporize until a Federal Anti-Lynch Law is enacted?

The Williams trial and conviction is a good precedent for a new regime of law and right in the relations between the whites and blacks.

THE FORMER KAISERIN.

THE world thinks of the invalid exile who died to-day in Holland rather as the wife of the former German Emperor than as the former German Empress.

Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein was no woman of imperial mind or dominating character. On the contrary, she realized almost perfectly the German ideal of the wife as Hausfrau, who implicitly trusts and obeys first her father and later her husband, who rears and watches over the children she bears, orders all within her home, is kind and charitable outside, following in all larger things "her man."

Married to Prince William of Prussia in the political interests of peace and closer alliance with Schleswig-Holstein, Augusta Victoria faithfully kept before the German people an imperial example of what a good German wife and mother should be.

The ambitions of her erratic husband and his conception of the destinies of Germany she accepted, outwardly at least, as part of the design of Providence to further which she must do her part.

The older type of German wife had to have something of a Spartan fibre, and the ex-Empress was too true to her traditions to blame her husband or her country for the misfortunes of her children.

How the war wrung the woman's heart we cannot know now, perhaps may never know.

"It is well to understand precisely what those who are still harping upon the ineffectuality of the Treaty of Versailles and demanding easy terms for the Germans are working for. It is condemnation for the greatest crime ever committed by one nation against others."—The Tribune.

Whatever "those who" are working for now, the fact remains that six months ago they were all working for the election of Warren G. Harding as President, and the Republican leaders were taking good care not to offend the willing workers.

BY INQUIRY AND PUBLICITY.

GOV. MILLER is unalterably opposed to State aid in financing a home-building programme.

This is the report on a conference with the Governor which Nathan Hirsch and William Kehoe made to their associates of the Committee on Housing.

For all practical purposes Gov. Miller is the Legislature this year. New York need not look to Albany for aid.

Self-help is the only alternative. The volunteer Committee on Housing plans to create a mortgage and legal bureau to operate on the same general lines as the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, which paved the way for enactment of the Rent Laws by showing the facts of the case.

Samuel Untermyer is reported to have such a scheme in view as an informal aid to the Lockwood committee. By investigating extortion in the loan market such an agency could turn the light of publicity on the loan sharks. The result would be either a voluntary reform of loan gouging, or else an aroused public sentiment in favor of State aid and regulation of building credit.

Either or both will help build homes.

TWICE OVERS.

"IMMEDIATE revision of the present unscientific and oppressive tax system is imperative."—Senator Edge.

"THE building apart created by the passing of the Collins (tax exemption) ordinance has proved greater than the most optimistic had hoped for."—P. J. Ravello.

"HAD a pair of trousers over my bathing suit, but when I came up to the top of the water this part of my costume was gone."—Dan Caruso, the Brooklyn Bridge jumper.

Don't Do It; I Tried It



From Evening World Readers

What kind of a letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

Debs and Daugherty.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Mr. Harry Reeve states in The Evening World of Monday, April 4, that Debs should not have been permitted to make the trip to Washington unescorted.

Personally, I do not agree with Mr. Debs's radicalism. Neither does Mr. Daugherty. But I am sorry for the individual with a single track mind who fails to realize that Debs in his own way is a powerful force. He has contributed to humanity certain political suggestions and ideals which have two effects, dependent upon the political faith of the one affected.

To Socialists he is a constant source of inspiration because of his principles, his work and his noble life of self-sacrifice. To the opponents of Socialism he is a shining example of what not to be politically and personally; a dazzling specimen of an undesirable radical and a destructive American.

But fundamentally and over and above his political principles Debs is a man among men, with the courage of his convictions and the qualities of leadership befitting a great statesman.

And in denouncing between the bomb-thrower and Debs, between the criminal and the conscientious man, Mr. Daugherty has emulated our own Abraham Lincoln, who had faith in men, whether they were gray uniforms or blue, whether they flattered his vanity by agreeing with him or pursued their own path by differing. The admirable part of it all is that Debs has justified Daugherty's faith in him. When we have more Daughertys on the one side and more Debses on the other, we will have a happier race, founded upon that stimulating moral quality, faith, regardless of political difference.

L. J. H.
Brooklyn, N. Y., April 5, 1921.

Another Hotel Strike.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I read your editorial on the traveling man's hotel strike. I would like to add my name to the list of strikers against the hotels and restaurants are charging.

In my case they have raised the rate of room in the last two months, yet during the war, when men and women were very hard to get, the price did not advance. I have been in the hotel five years, and it looks as if I would be a dweller in hotels the rest of my life.

"Live and let live" is my motto.
P. H. J. D.
New York, April 7, 1921.

"Grandpappy" Objects.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I wish to heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by Mrs. Mary Brown regarding incorrigible girls, as

published in a recent issue of your paper.

My business brings me down, on the Lexington Avenue subway every morning as early as from 6.30 to 7 o'clock and even at this hour it is both disturbing and disgusting to observe the "get up" of a great many girls, most of them not over seventeen or eighteen years old. Their noses are kalsomined to the limit, their lips rouged, and their clothing leaves but little to the imagination.

Hadn't you freeze over before I'd give up my seat to any of them? I'd advise a sound spanking for them. It's girls of this sort that go wrong and then they blame young men who by comparison are perfect gentlemen. The mothers, fathers and brothers of these girls should look after them.

All Ruins Look Alike.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Not far from my house is a furniture shop. During a month at least lately a picture labeled "Ruins of Belgium" remained unsold in the window. A lovely little village, with church and houses unscathed, presented a picture of desolation. Several dejected women sitting around made it look worse.

Seeing the owner at the door one day, I asked him the price. Two and a half dollars would make me the owner. Then I said: "I don't want it. No one here now cares about Belgian ruins. Change the label to 'Ruins of Ireland' and ask \$2."

Two days thereafter the chrome was gone. Grass was never greener in the Emerald Isle than in that work of art. Ruins of Ypres never looked worse than in the renamed picture, the "Ruins of Tuberculosis or Thirlage" did, for all ruins look alike, and the spirit of the invader in Ireland had the same result as in Belgium.

ROBERT P. GREEN.
New York, April 7, 1921.

Abolish "Private Stocks."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

A fair test of Prohibition would force "influential people" to dispose of their "private stocks." Since Gov. Miller has announced that he will entertain amendments to the State Prohibition Law, I therefore urge all people who want to bring this matter to a head to write to Gov. Miller advising an amendment which shall make it a crime for any one to possess, on and after July 31, 1921, more than a pint of alcoholic liquors for medicinal purposes.

C. A. BERTHAM.
Brooklyn, N. Y., April 6, 1921.

"Back to the Land."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

"The more thoughtful of your readers may have noticed yesterday in the contest of Premier Lloyd George with

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

(Copyright, 1921, by John Blake.)
THE WORLD DESPISES A WHINER.

A certain rich man who is publishing his matrimonial troubles to all the world has acquired an unpopularity which has perhaps never been equalled in the country in which he lives.

It may be true that he has the grievances of which he complains. But the world despises a man who whines. It believes that if a man goes into any contract with his eyes open—including matrimony—and becomes a loser it is more becoming to keep quiet about it.

You are pretty largely responsible for your matrimonial happiness or your business success. There is no compulsion about selecting a wife. There is no compulsion about choosing a profession.

Sometimes matrimonial ventures go bad. Often business ventures do. But that does not excuse the wail of despair that goes up from far too many of the losers.

The men who rebuild their fortunes after failures are not the men who go around telling their troubles to anybody who will listen. They are the sort who grit their teeth, swallow their disappointment and start all over again.

There are thousands of men in every country who marry too hastily for their own good. But—and this is to the credit of the human race—most of them keep their mouths shut about it.

There is in life something that we call sportsmanship which prompts decent men to keep their own troubles to themselves.

If they lose, they lose. If they lose in what is the most important thing in any man's life, his marriage, there is no reason to publish their loss abroad and seek to blame the woman in the case.

The world is sufficiently chivalrous to despise men who blame their wives for their troubles.

Adam's excuse, "The woman tempted me," has made his descendants ashamed of him since the beginning of record history.

It will behoove a man to be a little careful about going into a partnership which is for life and which must assume the responsibility for other lives. But if he has not been careful, or even if his happiness is wrecked through no fault of his own, it will be wiser for him to keep still about it. For no attempt to blame a woman in a divorce tangle has ever gained a man any sympathy.

THE STRIKING MINERS their retort when he said, "Where will the miners go if Britain becomes only a home for the cultivators of the soil?" "Back to the land," they replied without a moment's hesitation. England then will become what it was before her industries were developed. Goldsmith in his "Deserted Village" speaks of a time "Ere England's griefs began, when every rood of ground maintained its man." Tilling the soil is something which every man could do, not only with pleasure but with profit. A normal world. The writer knows a writer who says that when he attempts to write in the morning if he finds his head "groggled" he goes out and works for an hour or so in his garden, with the result that when he returns he finds his head ready for business. Had the earth always been an open shop we had never heard of a closed shop or a labor union. Back to the land is a

world-wide cry. J. Y. PRICE.
Inwood, L. I., April 8.

Beer as Medicine.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have been wondering what comfort the liquor dealers will get from the Palmer beer ruling. Reliable statistics show that the medical profession will refuse to become the dispensing agent. Only 29 per cent. of the nation's physicians took out permits to prescribe whiskey as a medicine, and even a large proportion of these did not apply for renewal permits this year. From this it would seem that few physicians regard beer as a medicine. It is quite clear that the demand to put beer on a medicine basis does not come from the doctors but from the brewers.

ARTHUR DOUGLAS.
New York, April 7, 1921.

Get-Rich-Quick of The Ages

By Svecosar Tonjoroff

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XXIII.—MESMER.

Frederic-Antoine Mesmer—to give him his full Gallicized Swabian name—was the man who first exploited animal magnetism. He got rich quickly in the process; but that is a mere detail.

The Swabian medical man whom Vienna rejected as an impostor in 1775 stands several grades higher in the scale of science, or near-science, than his contemporaries, Cagliostro. Some of the propositions advanced by him are now accepted features of the science of curative medicine.

Mesmer owes his indisputable title to membership in the Ancient and Dishonorable Order of Get-Rich-Quick to the fact that he prostituted his discoveries to the base purposes of extorting treasure from the gullible—whether rich or poor.

Mesmer was a contemporary of our own Benjamin Franklin. But while Franklin carried on his experiments in electricity in a scientific spirit, Mesmer conducted his operations in animal magnetism, plus electricity, plus the influence of the stars, plus all manner of other rignarole, in a commercial spirit.

For instance, in Paris, where all swindlers were wont to gravitate in those days, the Swabian pseudo-scientist opened an elaborate establishment for the instantaneous acquisition of perfect health by means of magic.

The main feature of this establishment was a "baquet magique," or magic tub. Around this huge bathtub he arranged his patients in tiers. Each patient held a tube, attached to the bathtub. The end of this tube was applied to the body of the patient as a transmitter of the "magnetic fluid."

Mesmer, clad in flowing garments and bearing a magic wand, himself posed as the source of the magnetic power—or Mesmerism. After he had gone through a few impressive motions the patients—or some of them—were so powerfully affected that they went into convulsions. These convulsions Mesmer labelled as a demonstration of his power and duly pronounced the affected subjects as cured.

Many of the patients actually believed him and insisted on regarding themselves as cured. Others, like a girl from Paris who went to him blind and the victim of convulsions, declined to accept his verdict after he had pronounced them cured. In the case of this girl, Mile. Paradis, it was duly demonstrated that she was still blind and still subject to convulsions after she had undergone his treatment. This double proposition she maintained despite all his positive assurances to the contrary.

But Mesmer laid his bet on human credulity—and continued to win. His magic establishment in Paris became the resort of the fashionable and the wealthy.

Then a scientific commission, of which Benjamin Franklin was the outstanding scientist of his time was a member, pronounced animal magnetism and its practice a figment of the imagination.

This, however, failed to wipe out the commercial value of Mesmerism. Mesmer invited the French Government to give him a chateau, an estate and about 500,000 francs in cash, in order to enable him to perfect his inventions for the benefit of mankind. Marie Antoinette made him a compromise offer of a pension of 20,000 francs and the Knighthood of St. Michael.

Mesmer declined this petty proposal with scant thanks, and eventually organized a string of "fetes of Hay-money," from which he drew a net sum of 346,000 livres, or over \$5,000,000 of present-day value, by subscriptions and membership fees.

After similar attempts to fleece the people of England and of Germany—which ended in failure—Mesmer retired to his birthplace in Swabia and died there in the year in which Napoleon was sent to Saint Helena.

All of which tends to show that it is not every swindler that meets with his just deserts.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

10.—POIGNANT.

A joy or a grief, when it is intense, may be accurately described as "poignant." A flavor or an odor of emphatic degree may be said to be "poignant." The two words are first cousins. Their original ancestor was the Latin word "pungo" (I prick).

This Latin word, in turn, was borrowed directly from the French by the ancestors of the Pilgrim Fathers. Its cousin, "poignant," came through the same process of borrowing, followed by legal adoption.

Devotees of the cult of Bacchus, now outlawed by Amendment XVIII, maintain that a good deal of the "pungency" has been taken out of life by that notable piece of legislation. On the other hand, the contempters of Bacchus and all his works regard the passing of the "wet" regime with "poignant" satisfaction.

"That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

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"Achter Cui," as Newark Bay (N. J.) was called by the Dutch, meant the "Back Bay." The narrow body of water known as Staten Island Sound, in which the name Arthur Kill is also attached, was possibly regarded as only a part of the "Back Bay," and so the name of the larger body, slightly corrupted, was appropriated to the smaller arm.

A reef in Newark Bay, at the mouth of the Kill, was once frequented by seals, to which the Dutch gave the name, Robyn. Hence the name, "Robyn's Reef," which, by careless usage, has become "Robbin's Reef."